Dragon Knights

Mineko Ohkami

7

TOKYOPOP

Dragon Knights: Wind Dragon

EARTH DRAGON KNIGHT THATZ HEADS FOR THE EASTERN CONTINENT ARINAS IN SEARCH OF THE THREE TREASURES.
WATER DRAGON KNIGHT RUNE HEADS FOR THE WATER REALM TO SAVE TINTLET AND SEAL AWAY THE DEMON FISH VARAWOO.
AND...
...FIRE DRAGON KNIGHT RATH AND CESIA HEAD FOR EMPHAZA.

Brought To You By:
Bloome Scans

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=(^.^)=
~(")(")

DRAGON
ドラゴン
KNIGHTS
騎士団
Wind
Dragon
風竜篇

I'M TRYING TO USE IT SPARINGLY.
BUT IT'S GETTING RIDICULOUS...
AND I DON'T THINK RATH'S COMING HOME ANY TIME SOON.
I WONDER WHERE IT COULD BE.
THE STOCK OF MORPH WEED.
CREAK
THE MORPH WEED IS ON THE TOP SHELF TO THE RIGHT, NEXT TO THE CHANGELING ROOT.
IT COULD BE ANY-WHERE.
I HAVE NO CLUE WHERE IT IS.
GASP

The Dragon Palace
creak

IT'S ALL RIGHT, RUWALK. I'M JUST CONSULTING WITH SALAZAR.
HAS SOME-THING HAP-PENED?
I MEAN
MY LORD!
S...
LYKOLEON
Pitter patter
HOW DID HE LEAVE WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING?
RATH ... ...IS GONE.
!
?
NOT THAT IT'LL BE ANY KIND OF SUR-PRISE...
BUT...
...I HAVE THE KEY.
UH...
THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HERMOSA— I FEEL IT.
I JUST HOPE KAI STERN ISN'T THERE.
ALL WILL COME CLEAR AT THAT TIME.
THE HER-MOSA KING-DOM?
THE ARMY FROM HERMOSA WILL ARRIVE SOON.

ALFEEG!...
...BE QUIET.
I MEAN... THIS IS SO TYPICALLY RATH, IT'S FUNNY. DON'T YOU THINK SO?
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU CAN REALLY LAUGH AT ALL THIS.
WHEN HE GETS BACK, WE MAY ALL HAVE A HEALTHY CHUCKLE ABOUT THIS OVER BREAKFAST.

I TRUST HIM TO TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.
RATH WILL BE OKAY.
.....

HE FOOLED US ALL.
HE USED ZOMA.
HUH?
NO, I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
OH, I ONLY ASSUMED THAT. I WAS ASKING YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS
HE'S A STUBBORN BOY.
IT CONCERNS ME THAT HE'S LEFT FIRE BEHIND
SO RATH IS WITH CESIA, THEN?
BUT TACTIC OR NOT, HE HAS A DUTY AS A DRAGON KNIGHT.
AS A TACTIC... SO WE WOULDN'T SUSPECT ANYTHING.
HE ...
... LEFT FIRE?
UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
AND A KNIGHT DOES NOT LEAVE BEHIND HIS DRAGON.

NO.
NO.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
THIS COULD BE BAD. MAYBE HIS ANGER IS SO INTENSE IT'S ACTUALLY TURNED HIM INTO AN UNCARING...
IT SEEMS THAT WAY, RIGHT?
WORRIED? ABOUT RATH?
VERY WORRIED
AND NOW HE'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT RATH.
YOU ACCEPT ANYONE HERE – DEMONS, HUMANS, FAERIES... ANYONE.
THE DRAGON PALACE IS A STRANGE PLACE.
A FEW.
...BUT NEVER A DEMON. THE LORD'S SHIELD MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO LIVE HERE.
HAS HE EVER LET BAD PEOPLE LIVE HERE AT THE DRAGON PALACE?
HE NEEDS ALL THE HELP WE CAN GIVE HIM.
HE'S SHOULDERING HALF THE WORLD.
YEAH. LORD LYKOULEON IS A WONDERFUL MAN.

BOY, ALFEEG! SURE LOOKED ANGRY.
I'M SORRY THAT I TRICKED EVERYONE.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT. FOR ALL OF OUR SAKE.
ALWAYS?
DON'T SWEAT OVER IT. ALFEEG! IS ALWAYS ANGRY. I THINK HE ENJOYS IT.

BUT ...
... THEY ARE NOT YET HEADING NORTH.
I KNEW IT
KULUTA
An island country west of the Dragon Kingdom
Capital Lya
TH-
THEY'RE NOT...
...HEADING NORTH?
Inside a remote cave...

I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT YOU'D BE RATH'S STAND-IN.
BUT ZOMA, SINCE YOU WEREN'T AROUND ...
I ASSUMED YOU LEFT WITH CESIA.
SO, THE LORD LOVES ALL.
YUP... .. HE OPENS HIS GATES TO ALMOST EVERY-ONE.
THAT'S WHY ALFEEGI'S ALWAYS SO PARA-NOID.
AGK!
NO, NOT AT ALL.
DID RATH THREATEN YOU?
I JUST WANTED TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING NEW.
?
YES
...RATH IS WITH CESIA.

YA GOT TO BE YOUNG AND QUICK, RATH.
CLOSE BUT NO CIGAR.
IF YOU KEEP USING YOUR WIND MAGIC, I'M NOT GONNA HAVE A SHOT.
SO YOU DON'T THINK THIS IS ONE OF NADIL'S MONSTERS?
ORABLY NOT. T'S PRIMITIVE D DIDN'T MOVE WITH MUCH NTELLIGENCE.
IT LOOKS STRONG THOUGH.
E-EEK!
THEY CREAMED THAT MONSTER LIKE IT WAS CHEESE.
WHO ARE THEY?
I WAS GONNA KILL IT!
DAMN, YOU BEAT ME TO IT!

IT'S STRANGE.
BUT I CAN'T TELL HER THAT.
I FEEL GOOD CUZ SHE'S HERE WITH ME.
HUH?
YEAH, WELL...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN FEELING LATELY? YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD.
BUT I CAN'T TELL HER ALL THIS... BECAUSE I WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN.
?
MAYBE SHE'S UNAWARE OF HER POWERS!
BUT HOW CAN SHE BE UNAWARE OF THEM? SHE HAS TO NOTICE THE CHANGES.
BUT ALL SHE HAS TO DO IS RE AND THE MAGIC WORKS
WITH THE SEAL GONE, I CAN FEEL CESIA'S TRUE POWER--HER MERE PRESENCE STRENGTHENS THE POWERS AND RESOURCES OF THOSE AROUND HER. IT'S WHAT PIERREZ TALKED ABOUT AND WHAT NADIL WANTS! I THOUGHT IT WAS SOMETHING SHE HAD TO WILL TO HAPPEN...

HEY, YOU BOYS JUST NEEDED US TO FIND THE CURSED MIRROR AND BREAK IT, RIGHT?
BUT THEY'RE USUALLY NOT THIS POORISH THEY'RE MORE CALCULATING, BETTER TRAINED THIS MONSTER WAS JUST AN OAF.
NADIL'S DEMONS AREN'T THAT SMART.
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
RATH?
YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT NADIL'S ARMY
HM
LET'S MOVE OUT, CESIA.
Y-YEAH. BUT...
UM...
THE CURSE...

WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT IS IT?
FORGET IT! WE HAVE TO FIND THE CURSED MIRROR!
RATH, STOP SPEAKING SO CRYPTICALLY.
sigh...
THE WORLD WON'T LIVE.
I WILL WORRY ABOUT IT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
SO THAT'S CESIA, HUH?
WE FINALLY FOUND HER, THE GIRL FROM THE MISTY VALLEY.
IT'S CESIA

I WONDER WHAT HE'S THINKING ABOUT.
HUH?
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I KNOW FOR SURE.
MY GUARDIAN DRAGON IS WEAKENING.
IS CESIA'S POWER THE ONLY THING THAT WILL PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF HIS POWER COMPLETELY DISAPPEARS?
WERE THEY SEALED AS WELL?!
OH, SHE'S GOT DRAGON EYES.
WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE BEFORE?
BUT THEY DON'T SEEM DIFFERENT
UH...

HEH
HE HE HE HE
WE COULDN'T GROW ANY CROPS.
THE CURSED EFFIGY KEPT US IN A PERPETUAL WINTER.
RA~~~ TH~~~ !!!!
TOO FUNNY !-IT'S !!
HAHAHA HAHAHA
EXCUSE ME. ARE YOU LISTENING TO US?
O-H, SO THEY WENT, KNOWING ABOUT THE CURSE!
OH, HEY, A CURSED SHOWMAN?
AND YOU TOOK ME THERE EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW!!!
HAHA-HAHA-HAHA-HAHA-HAHA
DO YOU TRY TO FIND CURSES? OR IS IT YOUR PERFUME? WHAT IS IT WITH YOU AND CURSES?
HAH
THAT FOOLISH GIRL.
WE'LL TAKE HER BACK HOME, WHERE SHE BELONGS
THE RUMORS ARE TRUE. SHE IS NOW ALLIED WITH THE DRAGON LORD.
HOW SICK.
I WONDER WHY SHE IS HERE, OF ALL PLACES?
SHYDEMAN ORDERED US TO RETRIEVE CESIA.
WHO CARES WHY SHE'S HERE?

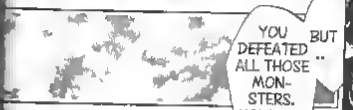
HEY, I'M THE DRAGON KNIGHT OF FIRE.
THE LITTLE GUY'D JUST MELT, RIGHT?

I FEEL A STRANGE CHILL.
THIS ISN'T FAIR. WHY WEREN'T YOU CURSED WITH A SNOWMAN, HUH!?

THANK YOU.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. HERE'S YOUR ORDER.

WELL AT LEAST ONE OF US IS HAPPY
HE HEHE
HAHA-HEH HAHA-HA HAH
RATH?
HAH!

OH! NO NEED TO THANK US. WE WERE MORE THAN HAPPY TO DO IT.
UM ...


YOU DEFEATED ALL THOSE MON-STERS. HOW CAN WE...
BUT ..

JUST ANSWER A QUESTION FOR ME.

IT'S CUTE. IT REALLY IS.
I'M SERIOUS, IT LOOKS REALLY GOOD ON YOU!
WILL YOU JUST STOP?
..... YOU!

THERE ARE NO MORE.
ぶんぶん
WHERE CAN I FIND MORE MON-STERS?
1984 SEPTEMBER

CUT IT OUT, RATH!
HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS!?

YEAH, YEAH.
THAT WAS ALCOHOL.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
THE LOIRE CHARDONNAY WE HAD BEFORE WAS JUST A DESSERT WINE.
LEFURY'LL TAKE THE SHINE OUTTA THE MOON.
MENU
PAR DON?
CAN WE SEE A MENU?
...I CAN'T LET HIM DRINK.
THAT'S WHY...
IF THAT HAPPENS, THEN RATH MIGHT...
IF HE GETS DRUNK AGAIN, MAYBE HE'LL LET THINGS SLIP AGAIN.
BOOZE?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
JUST SOME BOOZE. I THINK IT'S LEFURYHELIO OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
NOT MUCH.
RATH, WHAT'D YOU ORDER?
AND HERE'S THE CHECK. THANK YOU.
SINCE YOU MADE FUN OF MY LOW TOLERANCE, I'M INTENT ON RAISING IT.
SO I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR MY MISERY.
WAIT.
LIQUOR DIS-AGREES WITH YOU.
UM, YOU KNOW WHAT?
LEFURYHELIO IS PRETTY STRONG STUFF. YOU SHOULD START WITH SOME-THING A LITTLE LESS POTENT.
DON'T FREAK OUT GIRL.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M PLANNING TO FINISH THIS ALL RIGHT NOW.
WAIT WAIT WAIT!!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING...?
WHAT
!!
gasp
SIR, YOUR FRIEND!
SIR!

He's hiding something.
I KNOW WHO SHE TRULY IS NOW, BUT I CAN'T LET HER KNOW THAT.
THAT NIGHT, RATH SPILLED HIS HEART OUT.
THE PART OF HER THAT WAS A MONSTER, HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH DRAGON EYES.
I KNOW WHO HE TRULY IS NOW, BUT I CAN'T LET HIM KNOW THAT.

I CAME TO CHECK ON THE TWO OF YOU AND.
IT SEEMED LIKE SUCH A HARMLESS SNOW-MAN.
I NEED YOUR HELP. PLEASE GO AND GET ME SOME BLANKETS AND WARM WATER RIGHT AWAY.
OH. YES.

WHAT A FOOL.
YOU THINK ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SPIT OUT A LITTLE MAGIC...
...AND YOU CAN MAKE CESIA YOURS?
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME TODAY THAT I'VE HAD TO SUMMON MY SWORD. BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE NOW, DO I?

gasp!
WHAT THE -?
BASTARD!
UPGH!

IT'S COLD.
...IT'S CUTTING INTO MY BODY.
YOU'RE THE BASTARD IN THE MIRROR!!
WH--?!
ICE?
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CHOP YOU UP INTO TINY PIECES.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN--
CRAP..
WE BROKE THE CURSED MIRROR WAY TOO EASILY! SHOULD HAVE GUESSED IT WOULD COME TO HAUNT US!!

...BY ITSELF.
THE FIRE...
C-CESIA !!
HUH?
THINK, RATH. THINK!
IF I USE FIRE, I RUN THE RISK OF HURTING CESIA.

I'M SORRY. I'LL PAY FOR IT ALL..
DID YOU MELT THE ICE WITH FIRE?
WOULD YOU MIND..
OH YEAH, RIGHT
SHE'S GONNA NEED TO GET OUT OF THOSE WET CLOTHES.
I'M COLD...
WHAT IS IT?
IT WILL PROTECT HER FROM CURSES.
YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS YOUNG LADY TO THE SPRING OF PURIFICATION
PLEASE, DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT. I AM JUST SO GRATEFUL YOU BROKE THE CURSED MIRROR.
IT WAS A BLIGHT ON OUR TOWN FROM WHICH WE ARE NOW SAVED.
...RA ... TH.
CESIA !!
I'M .. STILL ...
CAN YOU MOVE, CESIA?
SHE'S STILL COLD. THE CURSE ISN'T GONE.
HERE YOU GO, SIR. WATER AND BLANKETS.

ズズ…
DAMN.
I FEEL BAD.
IT'S NOT LIKE ME.
はぁ
BUT SHE CAN'T GO THERE ALONE.
DAMN, WHAT'S SHE DOING IN THERE FOR SO LONG?
sloop!
?
--

IT LOOKS COLD.
IT'S A MAGICAL SPRING, NOT FAR FROM HERE, THAT THE CURSED GO TO CLEANSE THEMSELVES.
IT WILL WASH THE CURSE FROM HER BODY.
BUT SHE CAN'T GO THERE ALONE
YOU WANNA SNEAK A PEEK, HUH?
Y-YEAH
RIGHT!

C-
CESIA!!
IF SOMEONE STAYS IN THE SPRING TOO LONG, IT'LL WASH AWAY THEIR MEMORIES, TOO.
THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO GO WITH HER. DON'T LET HER STAY IN THERE.
WHO ARE YOU?
...TOO LATE ...?
I'M ...

OH, DO YOU NEED TO BATHE, TOO?
GOOD EVENING. THE MOON IS SO BEAUTIFUL, DON'T YOU THINK?
smile!
.....

C-
CESIA ...

CE..
CESIA?
CESIA, THAT'S YOUR NAME.
W...WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
THIS IS BAD
SO I GUESS YOU CAN CALL ME THAT.
I SEE. WELL, IT SOUNDS OKAY TO ME.
I'M STILL FORGETTING SOMETHING...
IS THIS IT?
YEAH.
HUH?
NOW, WHAT WAS I WEARING?
WHAT WAS IT YOU CALLED ME?
THAT'S RIGHT!
SOMETHING? HOW ABOUT, OH, I DON'T KNOW...
YOUR NAME?

YUP, AGAIN.
AND WHAT IS OUR RELATIONSHIP?
YUP.
WHAT YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF DOING!
YUP.
WHO YOU ARE AND WHERE YOU'RE FROM!
YUP.
LEMME GUESS. YOU WANNA KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE.
THOSE ARE THE THINGS ANYONE WOULD WANT TO KNOW IF THEY LOST THEIR MEMORY.
EVEN I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT MANY.
HOW DID YOU KNOW ALL THAT?
YOU'RE GOOD.
And so Rath explains it all to Cesia...
HUH?

BY THE WAY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
...SINCE YOU KNOW MINE.

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN TAKE THIS.
IT'S RATH
RATH?
YOUR NAME IS RATH?

DID THE PURIFICATION SPRING REALLY WASH AWAY HER MEMORIES?
SHE LOOKS HAPPY.
SHE'S DOWNRIGHT CHEERY! WHAT AN ODD GIRL!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SHE CAN TAKE THIS SO WELL. I'D FLIP OUT IF I COULDN'T REMEMBER MY NAME.

OH.
WAIT. I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS.

DID SHE REALLY LOSE HER MEMORY?

RATH.
HMM.

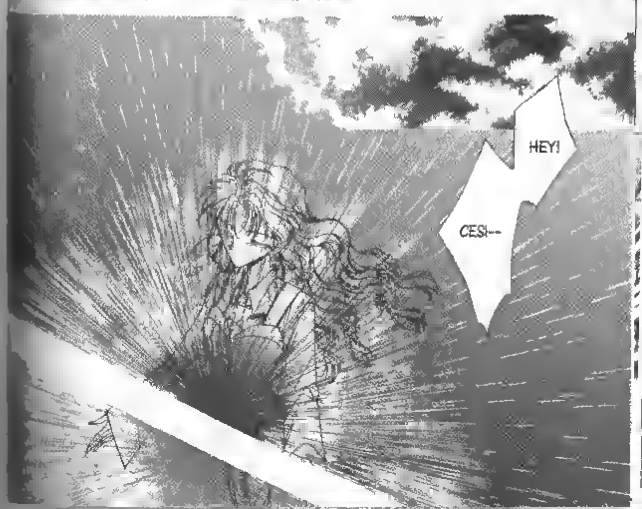
UH ...
WHY?
IT BOTHERS THE HELL OUT OF ME!
REALLY? WHY?
OF COURSE SHE CAN STILL USE HER POWERS. WHY WOULD HER MEMORY LOSS AFFECT THAT?
SO WHY DO I CARE?
"WHY?" WHY DOES IT BOTHER ME?
THE INNKEEPER DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO GET CESIA'S MEMORIES BACK.
IS IT BECAUSE SHE CAN'T USE HER WIND MAGIC WITHOUT HER MEMORY? OR IS IT MY FAULT THAT SHE LOST HER MEMORY?
WELL, AT LEAST THE CURSE IS COMPLETELY GONE.

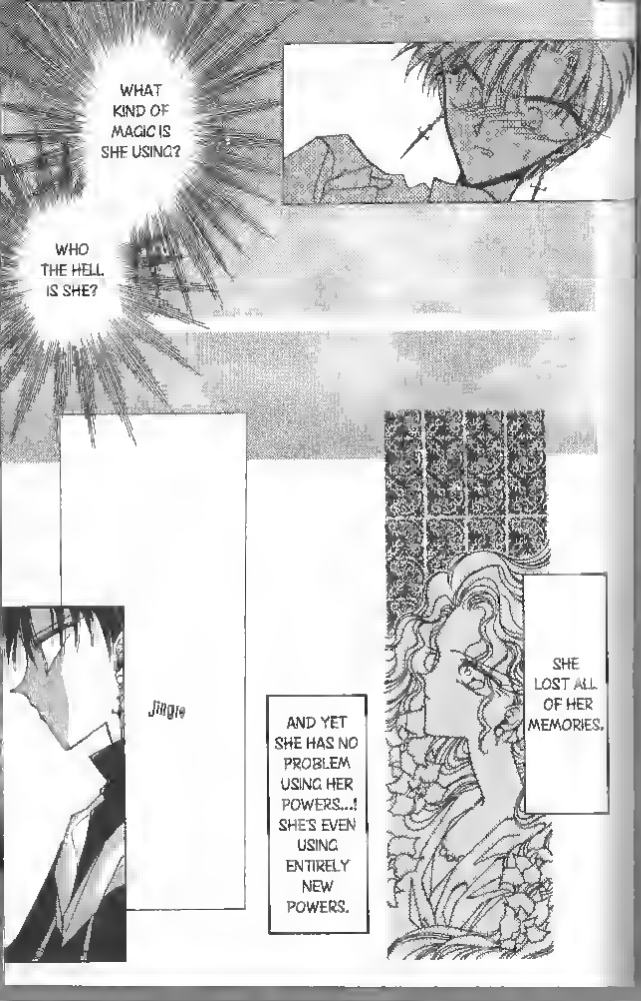
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'VE LOST MY MEMORY?
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER THAT.
IT'S SO STRANGE. I'M NOT FEELING ANXIOUS OR TROUBLED BY IT AT ALL...
I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE.
YOU CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER YOUR NAME. IT'S ONLY NATURAL THEN THAT THE DETAILS OF YOUR LIFE ARE DARK AS WELL.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT THING?
RATH!
WHAT?
?
I TOLD HIM IT WAS CUTE AND HE JUST HANDED IT TO ME.
THE BALLOON VENDOR GAVE IT TO ME
IT WAS FOR DECORATION.
YOU GOT A TEDDY BEAR FROM A BALLOON VENDOR?!
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS I CAN TAKE...
OF COURSE.
YOU LIKE, . . ANIMALS?
CESIA!!
WH-
SHE'S GONE!!
CESIA?!
!

THE DRAGON LORD'S SWORD IS...!
HUH?!

HUH?
I SUMMONED IT TWICE YESTERDAY, SO I DON'T WANT TO PUT IT BACK IN CASE WE NEED IT AGAIN.
LEMME SEE IT.
HOLD THIS.
WELL ...
.. IT TAKES A LOT OF ENERGY TO SUMMON IT.
UM
YEAH ...


HEY!
CES!--


WHAT KIND OF MAGIC IS SHE USING?
WHO THE HELL IS SHE?
Jingle
AND YET SHE HAS NO PROBLEM USING HER POWERS...! SHE'S EVEN USING ENTIRELY NEW POWERS.
SHE LOST ALL OF HER MEMORIES.

A BELL ...?
IT'S MUCH LIGHTER NOW.
TRY IT.
IT'S LIKE WHAT I DID TO THE BEAR... ONLY I CHANGED WHAT IT WAS.
?

NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE ALL OF YOUR ENERGY TO SUMMON IT.
IT'S STILL YOUR SWORD. WHENEVER YOU WANT IT TO BECOME A BELL, JUST MAKE A WISH AND IT WILL MAGICALLY TRANSFORM.
DON'T WORRY!
AW MAN

ISN'T THAT CONVENIENT ?

...IT IS MORE CONVENIENT.
I GUESS..
BUT EVEN SO..
...I CAN'T JUST LET THINGS GO ON LIKE THIS.
PLUS, I WANT TO GO FIND THE LEGENDARY MONSTER AT EMPHAZA.
A BELL... HUH?
GEE, THAT LOOKS FUN.
IF I LOST ALL OF MY MEMORIES...
...WOULD I BE AS HAPPY?

AS I AM NOW, I CAN NEVER TRULY BE HAPPY.
NOT WITH MY PAST.
AND IT'S ALL THE DRAGON CLAN'S FAULT.
HOW CUTE.
HEY LITTLE FELLA.
YOU WANT ME TO FOLLOW YOU?

I'D PREFER, AS I'M SURE HE WOULD, THAT YOU RELEASE HIM.
HE IS ONE OF MY LOYAL SERVANTS.

AW MAN. NOT AGAIN!
GIMME A BREAK!
I WISH SHE'D JUST HURRY UP AND GET HER MEMORY BACK ALREADY!
WHOA. WHAT'S GOTTEN YOU INTO A FUSS?
CAUGHT YA!

RATH
RATH!
WHAT?
I'M SCARED
RATH!!
BURN!
!!

WHO ARE YOU?
THE WITCH'S GIRL FROM THE MISTY VALLEY
CESIA, RIGHT?
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
THAT'S FUNNY
WHAT
IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
!
THAT MAKES YOU QUITE POPULAR.
YES.
LORD NADIL'S MOST ADORED PRINCESS
BUT YOU ARE DESPERATELY SOUGHT AFTER BY NADIL'S HENCHMEN
LOOKING AT YOU IN PERSON, YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE MUCH.

IF YOU WANT TO LIVE...
TELL US!!
WHERE IS CESIA!
..TELL US.
IT CAN'T BE. THAT MEANS CESIA'S ALREADY BEEN...
YES, HE'S THE ONE.
HE'S BEEN GUARDING CESIA.
THAT'S HIM
OH...
...IF I WANT TO LIVE...
HA! THEY HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND HER YET.
WELL
YOU SURE TALK BIG.
..I'LL JUST KILL YOU.

HAS SHE RUN INTO DEMONS?
WHERE DID CESIA GO?
THERE'S A DEMON NEARBY!!
!!

SORRY BOYS...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO CHAT.
I'M IN A BIT OF A RUSH
jingle

BAM!
!?

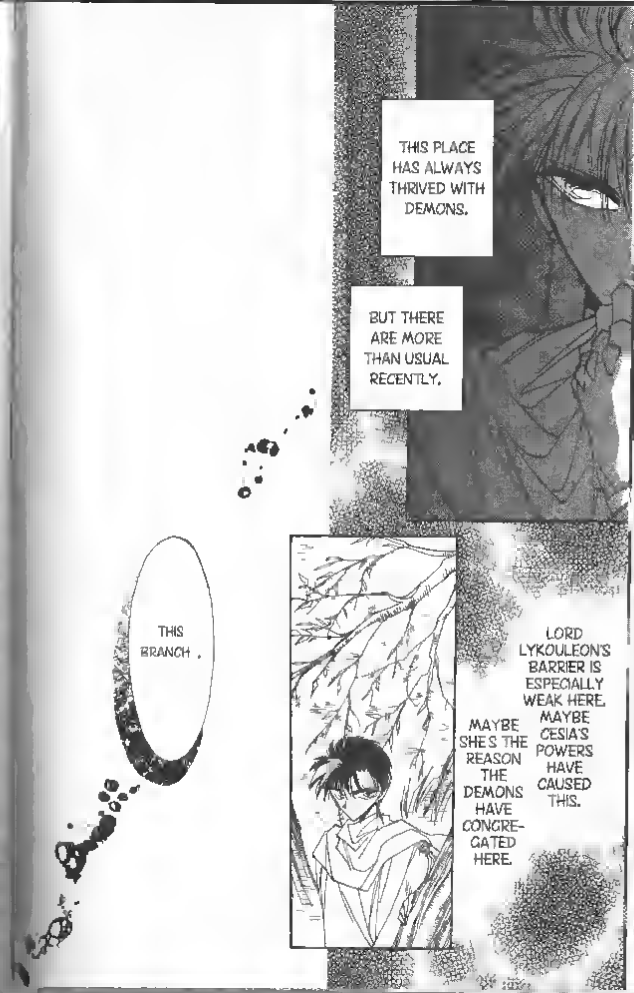
HUFF
HUFF
GRR...
?
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE CALL MY NAME.
OH, NO!

WHERE THE HECK DID SHE RUN OFF TO?
GRR...
I'VE GOT TO FIND HER BEFORE THEY DO!!
WHERE COULD SHE BE?!
HUFF
DAMN, SHE PISSES ME OFF!

SHE IS STILL VERY POWERFUL...
I CAN FEEL A SURGE OF STRENGTH.
...EVEN WITH AMNESIA.
Squeeze
THE MISTY VALLEY
IT'S CESIA'S SPIRIT.

IT'S TORN, LIKE AN ANIMAL BIT IT.
RATH!!!
THINK, RATH!
WHERE WOULD THEY TAKE HER?

THE MISTY VALLEY.
THIS IS WHERE WE KILLED THE ONE-EYED MONSTER AND DEFEATED THE MAN-EATING WITCH!
IT'S WHERE CESIA USED TO LIVE.


THIS PLACE HAS ALWAYS THRIVED WITH DEMONS.
BUT THERE ARE MORE THAN USUAL RECENTLY.
LORD LYKOULEON'S BARRIER IS ESPECIALLY WEAK HERE. MAYBE CESIA'S POWERS HAVE CAUSED THIS.
MAYBE SHE'S THE REASON THE DEMONS HAVE CONGREGATED HERE.
THIS BRANCH.

WE KNOW YOU HAVE CESIA!
WHY HAVEN'T YOU TAKEN HER TO SHYDE-MAN?!
KIRU-KULUS!! COME OUT, YOU COWARD!
KIRU-KULUS!
KIRU KULUS!
YOU RAT!!
WILL THEY CEASE THAT INFERNAL RACKET.

IT WOULD HARDLY BEHOOVE ME TO SIMPLY HAND THE GIRL OVER TO SHYDEMAN.
AT LEAST, NOT BEFORE I DISCOVER WHY HE WANTS HER SO BADLY.
I MUST REMOVE THAT AMULET!
IT PROTECTS HER. I CAN'T TOUCH HER.
WHAT'S THAT AMULET SHE'S WEARING?

DAMN THIS AMULET!!
WHO ARE YOU?
TAKE IT OFF SO I CAN BE FREE!

I DON'T ...
... THINK I LIKE YOU VERY MUCH.
WITHOUT IT, I COULD BE SO POWERFUL.
THAT STONE IS HOLDING ME CAPTIVE.
THAT'S WHY HE SEALED ME AWAY!!
THE DRAGON LORD DOESN'T LIKE ME EITHER!
HA HA HA HA !!
!?

WHY ARE YOU SAD?
WHAT'S WRONG ?
SHE'S CRYING BECAUSE I AM STRONGER THAN SHE IS.
I AM!!
LOOK AT HOW SNIVELING AND SCARED SHE IS. SHE CAN'T BE THE REAL CESIA.

!!?

DAMN THE DRAGON LORD AND HIS AMULET!
I WILL NOT STAND THE IMPRISONMENT
THAT'S RIGHT.
JIGGLET?! REMOVE THE AMULET.

THAT WAS POWER-FUL!
WHAT WAS THAT ?!
DID YOU FEEL THAT?
!!
LORD LYKOULEON'S PROTECTIVE BARRIER IS GONE!

?
WHERE AM I?

I SEE.
HE HE
SUCH POWER..
THIS IS WHY NADIL'S ARMY WANTS HER SO BADLY.
HA HA HA..
I CAN FEEL MY STRENGTH GROWING JUST BY BEING NEXT TO HER.
ITS COURSING THROUGH ME.
POWER.
YES, THAT'S IT.
IF ONLY I COULD..
IT WILL BE MINE!!
CESIA.
FIGURE OUT HOW TO HARNESS AND USE THIS POWER.
HE HE
HA HA HA HA HA
WOW! I FEEL REALLY GOOD!!
THE DEMONS CAN SENSE IT, TOO NADIL'S POWER IS GETTING STRONGER.
AT THIS RATE, THE DEMONS WILL GROW TOO POWERFUL TO BEAT.
I MUST FIND CESIA BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!

LET ME SEE.
I HAVE A FUN LITTLE IDEA.
HOW CONVENIENT THIS SHOULD WORK OUT NICELY.
SO, SWEETIE— —YOU WANNA SHOW ME A GOOD TIME?
OH YEAH?
WITH YOUR POWER
I HAVE SO MUCH POWER IT'D BE A SHAME FOR IT TO GO TO WASTE
giggle
LYKOU-LEON, HUH?
...KILL THE DRAGON LORD LYKOU-LEON.
...YOU COULD PER-HAPS.
CESIA ...?
IS THAT ...MY NAME...?
AND PRAY TELL, WHO ARE YOU? HOW DO YOU KNOW ME?!
HAHA-HA! IS THAT SO?!!
YES. IT'S CESIA
HE HE
YOU LOOK LIKE A DEMON
DOES SHE HAVE AMNESIA?
ARE YOU A DEMON...?
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS
I'M KIRUKULUS. THIS IS SIGGLET.

YOU HAVE NO MEMORIES RIGHT NOW.
THIS TIME IT'S DIFFERENT.
AT LEAST, YOUR PHYSICAL BODY DOESN'T KNOW TO HATE HIM.
YOU HAVE NO REASON TO HATE NADIL.
THEN
..HOW DO I GET MY MEMORY BACK?

IS HE STRONG ?
IT'S NO FUN IF HE ISN'T.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN WHO IS HE?
BUT SHE WAS RELEASED WHEN THE AMULET WAS REMOVED..
WE'RE BOTH PART OF YOU SHE WAS THE PART THAT WAS RESTRAINED WITH BLOOD THREADS.
BUT THAT AMULET HAS BEEN OFF BEFORE...
...ONCE IT WAS EVEN LOST ..
.. AND SHE NEVER--
THAT HORRIBLE WOMAN. WHO IS SHE?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? TELL SHY-DEMAN?
DAMN THAT KIRU-KULUS. HE'S GETTING IN THE WAY.
NO, YOU IDIOT! HELL TAKE IT OUT ON US.
IT MUST BE CESIA'S POWER.
EVIL. I FEEL EVIL HERE.
YES. ONCE WE HAVE CESIA, WE WILL BE UN-STOPPABLE.
WE HAVE TO COME UP WITH A PLAN..
..TO GET OUR HANDS ON THAT GIRL..

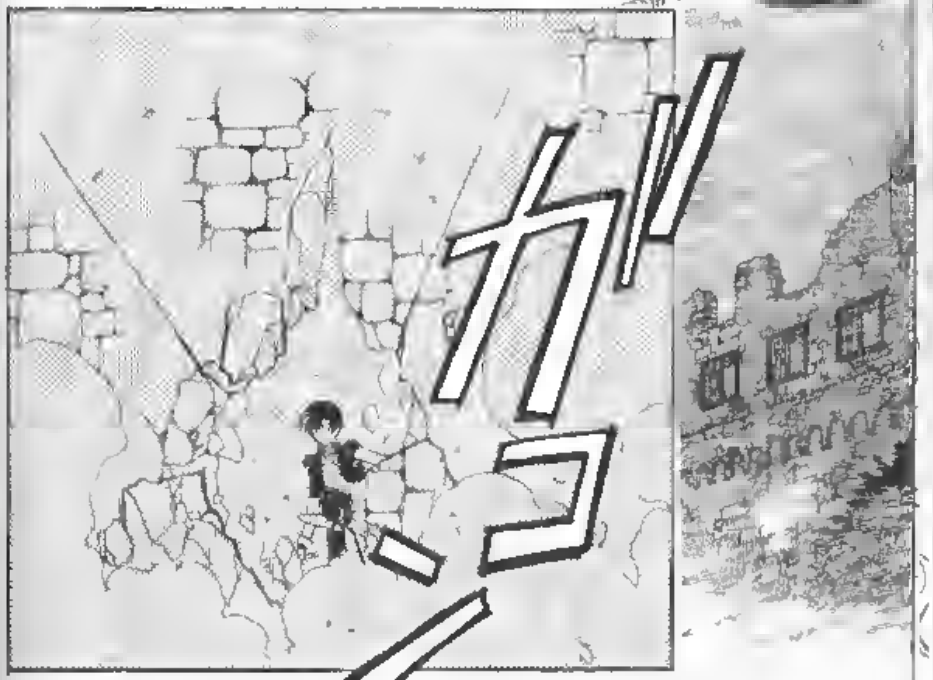
YES...
SHE'S LOST ALL HER MEMORIES NADIL. WILL BE PLEASED.
ANSWER THIS FIRST DO YOU WANT ME?
...I WANT YOU.
HE HE...
NOW THEN...
HER POWER WILL BE MINE.
giggle!
SOMEONE'S COMING.
IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE FUN
squeeze
WHAT'S WRONG?

THIS IS THE CENTER OF THE DEMONIC ENERGY...
THERE SHOULD BE SOME STRUCTURE OR BUILDING NEARBY.
THAT'S WHERE CESIA WILL BE.
WHAT?
WHO'S THERE?
...NO
!?

I AM NOT AMUSED.
DO THEY THINK THIS IS A JOKE?

IF THAT'S HOW THEY WANT TO PLAY...
—I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO KILL THEM...!
I'LL KILL ANYTHING THAT'S EVEN PART DEMON.
sigh...
...THAT MEANS...
EVEN IF—

THE ROPE OF DECEPTION
SO ALL THIS IS AN ILLUSION.
HMPH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HELLO THERE
I HEAR YOU'RE FROM THE DRAGON CLAN
CESIA!!
IT ISN'T MUCH FUN HERE
DID YOU COME BY MISTAKE?
I THOUGHT SO...
...FOR A MOMENT.
I SEE
YOU DIDN'T COME TO PLAY DID YOU COME TO WORK THEN?
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
KILLING DEMONS IS PART OF THE DRAGON CLAN'S JOB.
I KNEW IT.
HER WRIST. THE LIGHT DRAGON AMULET IS GONE.
HA HA
HMMM, I SEE

HOW PECULIAR YOUR AURA SHINES WITH A DEMON TINT VERY UN-DRAGON CLAN OF YOU
NOW THEN...
...YOU SURE YOU'RE FROM THE DRAGON CLAN?
SO...
...YOU'VE FINALLY WISED UP.
I TOLD YOU ONCE.
WITHOUT THAT AMULET, YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER LOUSY DEMON.
ME, A DEMON?

BUT I GUESS YOU DON'T REMEMBER THAT.
ARE YOU STRONG, THEN?
WHY DON'T I SHOW YOU?
HMPH ...
HA HA HA HA HA !!

HOW PERFECT. HERE I WAS GETTING BORED BECAUSE I HAD NO ONE TO PLAY WITH...
THEN YOU COME ALONG.
OH, CESIA. YOU NEVER CEASE TO SURPRISE ME.
LET'S GO.

IS SOME-THING WRONG?
CAPTAIN?
CAPTAIN!
!!
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING NOW?
NO, KEEP INVESTI-GATING.
HOW STRANGE

THERE'S A TSUNAMI ON THE EAST SEA SHORE. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DAMAGES ARE YET.
AND THERE ARE REPORTS OF A STRANGE VOICE.
THANK YOU.
A STRANGE VOICE?
WHOSE IS IT?
THE DRAGON LORD...
...AND THE REST OF THE DRAGON CLAN PROBABLY SENSE IT TOO...
THEY HEARD A WOMAN SINGING FROM INSIDE A HOLE.

IT'S AS IF TWO DEMONS AS POWERFUL AS NADIL HIMSELF ARE ENGAGED IN BATTLE!!
CAPTAIN...
THE... THE INSTABILITY OF THE LAND IS MOST LIKELY DUE TO THE REDUCED NUMBER OF FAERIES.
CAPTAIN... I HAVE NEWS.
YES.
I MUST... ...INFORM THE DRAGON LORD.
REPORTS OF STRANGE PHENOMENA HAVE BEEN POURING IN.
SHALL I BEGIN DOCUMENTING THEM?
YES.

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
HA HA HA! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

..MY HEAD IS POUNDING.
GRR.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.

I SENSED YOUR POWER BEFORE YOU ARRIVED
BUT IT SEEMS I'VE OVER-ESTIMATED YOUR STRENGTH.
!!
!!
!!
ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?
GR..

GET UP AND FIGHT, YOU WIMP!
WHY ARE YOU JUST SITTING ON YOUR ASS AND LETTING HER BEAT YOU?
STOP BEING SO PATHETIC AND DO SOMETHING!!
RATH!!
WHY AM I HOLDING BACK? I DON'T CARE ABOUT HER POWERS.
IN FACT, I WOULDN'T MIND IF THEY HAD DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY.
STOP HOLDING BACK.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO KILL ME.
I WANT TO SEE WHAT KIND OF PUNCH YOU PACK.
HAVE YOU NO SENSE OF WORTH? NO SELF-RESPECT?
I DON'T NEED TO BE REMINDED OF THE FACT THAT I AM A DEMON.
THE THOUGHT OF IT DISGUSTS ME ENOUGH WITHOUT YOUR SNIDE REMARKS
I KNOW THAT!!
.. SHE IS STILL YOU ..
I DON'T PLAN ON LIVING THAT LONG ANYWAY.
I DON'T NEED HER OR HER POWERS.
I WILL KILL HER!

MY MEMORY...
MY MEMORY...
HOW CAN I GET THEM BACK?
MAYBE IT'S FOR THE BEST IF RATH KILLS ME RIGHT NOW.
IF YOU DON'T WIN THIS, THE OTHER CESIA, THE EVIL CESIA...
...WILL NO DOUBT MAKE IT TO THE DRAGON CASTLE AND KILL THE DRAGON LORD.
BUT SHE'LL KILL RATH FIRST!
HA!
I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO A GOOD HARD FIGHT, RATH.

BUT WATCHING YOU TRY TO BE A MURDERING VILLAINESS... THAT CRACKS ME UP.
IT WAS PRETTY AMUSING TO SEE YOU CARRY AROUND THAT TEDDY BEAR.
YOU, MY DEAR, ARE A CHILD.
IT'S LIKE WATCHING ME AS A CHILD.
HEE HEE...

WOULD YOU PREFER IT QUICK AND PAINLESS? OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO REALLY FEEL THE COLD CHILL FALLING OVER YOU?
IF THAT IS WHAT YOU TRULY WANT, I WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HELP YOU, RATH...
IDIOT! STOP IT!
IS THAT SO? THEN WHY... HAVEN'T YOU BEEN ABLE TO DO IT YET?
I'M GOING TO BLEED THE LIFE OUT OF YOU LIKE SAP FROM A TREE.
I'M AFRAID YOU'VE GOT... THINGS TURNED AROUND

WELL WELL WELL. I SEE
IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW.
I WAS BEGINNING TO GET OFFENDED. I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T REALLY WANT... ...TO FIGHT ME.
BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT ME.
IT'S ABOUT YOU
EH?
YOU WANT TO DIE.

IT'S THE GIRL INSIDE ME, ISN'T IT?
SHE'S SO PRECIOUS TO YOU AND YET ...
...YOU CAN'T GET OVER HER BEING A DEMON.
I'M A DEMON, AND I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE SCRATCH ON MY BODY.
WHAT'S WRONG? I THOUGHT YOU LIKED KILLING DEMONS.
I'LL KILL YOU!!
I WILL!!
HA HA HA HA HA!!
DAMN ...
FUNNY.
"I'LL KILL YOU?" "I WILL?"
WHA-?!

OR I COULD DICE YOU INTO A MILLION PIECES.
IT WOULDN'T TAKE ME MORE THAN A MINUTE.
RATH!!
KEEP GOING.
I HAVENT HEARD ANYTHING I LIKE YET.
COME ON. SOMETHING FUN.

NO... WHY!
I DON'T CARE IF I DIE!
KILL HER!
RATH!!
SUCH STRONG WORDS AND YET, THIS
LET'S SEE. WHAT DO YOU VALUE MORE?
YOUR ARMS OR YOUR LEGS?

ARE YOU CRAZY?
IDIOT!
WILL YOU SHUT UP?!
ALL RIGHT !!
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE ALREADY ADMITTING DEFEAT. FIGHT HER.
RATH, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
FIGHT HER!!!
IF I'M GOING TO DIE, I'M GOING TO DIE ON MY TERMS IN MY WAY, AND DOING WHAT I LIKE MOST.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS WHETHER I KILL DEMONS OR KILL MYSELF!
IT'S DANGEROUS TO LEAVE IDIOTS TO THEIR OWN DEVICES.
YOU ARE AN IDIOT.
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MUCH EVERYONE WORRIES ABOUT YOU?
IDIOT?
HA...

RATH!!
GRR

DID I LEAVE ANY-THING OUT?
I THINK THAT ABOUT COVERS IT.
MAY-BE.
!?
ALOOF!
A TROUBLE-MAKER!
SELF-CENTERED,
WHINY!
SPOILED!
SELFISH!
LOSER!
BRATTY!
IDIOT!

THAT'S IT!
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.

I KNOW THEY CARE AND WORRY ABOUT ME. THEY REALLY LIKE ME AND I CAN'T STAND IT!
THAT'S WHY I HATE THEM! IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE, DOES IT?!
THEY STILL CARE.
EVERYONE WHO KNOWS THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU, RIGHT?

YES! I HATE THEM! I HATE THEM ALL! THE DRAGON LORD, THE DRAGON OFFICERS, EVERYONE! LYKOULEON, RUWALK, KAI-STERN,
AND THATZ, TOO!

grrr...
YOU HATE BEING PART OF THE DRAGON CLAN?!
DO YOU HATE THE DRAGON CLAN THAT MUCH?
IS THAT IT?

RATH
YOU DIDN'T THINK I KNEW, HUH? WELL, SURPRISE, I DO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU.
.....!!

...HE IS SO...
OH, GOD.
RATH...

GRR R...

I DON'T LIKE YOU. I HATE YOU.
SO GO AHEAD AND LIVE LIFE ALL YOU WANT.
ABOUT WHAT ?
DON'T YOU WORRY.
THANK YOU...
HEE HEE..
THANK YOU?
~~~~ RATH ?!
HA HA HA HA

I WILL NEVER LET YOU DIE.
AND YOU BETTER NOT FIGHT ME ON THIS!
HEY!
GO AHEAD-- KICK, SCREAM AND CRY ALL YOU WANT, BUT I AM NOT LETTING YOU DIE!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU WANT MY HELP OR NOT.
DRAGON KNIGHTS DON'T CRY
YOU SAID YOU DON'T LIKE PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY LIKE YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT WHO COULD SERIOUSLY LIKE SUCH A MESSED UP CHARACTER LIKE YOU?
GET OFF MY BACK.
~~~~

YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOUR PROMISE, HAVE YOU?
OR DID YOU NOT MEAN ANY OF THAT STUFF YOU SAID?
OH, I MEANT IT...
...I WILL NEVER LET YOU DIE.
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, I DON'T LIKE YOU. I HATE YOU!
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
WELL?
WHERE'S THE LIGHT DRAGON AMULET?
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE HATES HIMSELF SO MUCH...
IT SEEMS TO ME HE COULD'VE BEEN RAISED IN HEAVEN...
BUT...

HUH?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
UH...
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN LAUGH AT..
HEY! WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
...YOUR AMNESIA'S GONE.
...NEITHER OF US NOTICED...
YOU WERE SO BUSY SCREAMING...
YOUR LIGHT DRAGON AMULET CAME OFF.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE IT IS?
IT WAS LIKE—
I WAS WATCHING MYSELF
...BUT FROM INSIDE.
I'M SORRY, RATH.
YOU BETTER KEEP IT ON NEXT TIME. I DON'T EVER WANT TO HAVE TO SEE THAT OTHER YOU AGAIN.
IT'S OVER, NOW.
LET'S GO FIND YOUR AMULET.
RATH...
...YOU SEEM UNUSUALLY HAPPY.

THATZ.
YOU WANNA MEET HIM? HE'S BEEN DYING TO SEE ANOTHER ONE OF HIS KIND.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I MET ANOTHER FAERIE, RECENTLY.
RUNE CAME TO...?
AND.. DID YOU TELL HIM THE TRUTH?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
DID YOU COME TO ASK ME ABOUT RATH LIKE RUNE DID?
...POO
THIS IS BAD
ARE YOU OKAY?
OW..
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE CARRYING A SWORD.
DAMN.
WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE. THEY'RE HUNTING FAERIES, RIGHT? IF MORE COME, WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE.
WE SHOULD HEAD FOR THE DRAGON CASTLE.
YOU WOULDN'T THINK A WEAPON MADE OUT OF ASH WOULD CUT SO DEEPLY.
WAIT A SECOND. RATH SAID HE HATED THATZ, TOO. I UNDERSTAND WHY HE CAN'T STAND...
...THE DRAGON LORD AND THE OFFICERS.
BUT, THATZ..?
WHY WOULD HE SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

DOES HE ALREADY KNOW WHAT I TOLD RUNE...?
WEIRD...
I'M SURE IT'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.
THAT WAS WHEN I LOST IT IN THE WOODS, FOREST
LAST TIME I LOST IT, WE FOUND IT AGAIN.
BUT IT'S OKAY!
HMMM...
WELL WE REALLY TORE THIS PLACE UP, SO IT'S KINDA HARD TO RECOGNIZE.
WE'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR HOURS.
SWEAR I'VE LOOKED HERE BEFORE.

I JUST STOPPED BY TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE DISAPPEARING FAERIES.
THE FAERIE I MET, RINGLEY'S, SAID THAT HIS KIND HAD ALL DISAPPEARED. I WANTED TO KNOW THE REASON WHY.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT AN ANGEL OR SOMETHING...
OH, YEAH. HE'S THE ONE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT.
NOT EXACTLY.
IT'S BECAUSE OF AN ALCHEMIST NAMED KHARI....
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT ASH CREATURE, RIGHT? I CAN'T BELIEVE HE GOT AWAY!

LOOSEN YOUR GRIP.
SHE'S NO GOOD TO YOU DEAD.
THIS IS BAD.. AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND THE LIGHT DRAGON AMULET YET..
...
WHAT A PRETTY STONE.
HOW CAN I SURRENDER IT TO YOU?
THINK BEFORE YOU ACT, DRAGON KNIGHT.
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THIS?
CESLA!!
KI..
RUKU
..LUS
UGH
...I WON'T LET YOU HAVE HER..
...SHE'S TOO IMPORTANT.. SHE WILL SERVE NADIL'S ARMY..
AAAAH!!

!
HOW ABOUT IF I CRUSH IT TO POWDER ?
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH IT?
!?
WHAT?
GRRR...

ニロ…
GRR
..

ゴボッ…
ゴボゴボ…
..
CESIA!

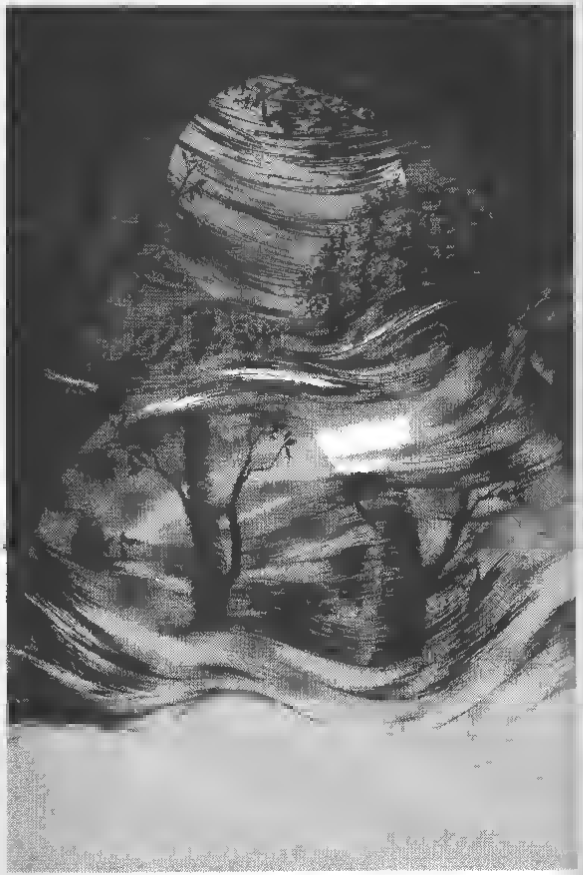
DAMN ...
HE TOOK THE LIGHT DRAGON AMULET ...

YOU BAS-TARD!
RUNNING AWAY ALREADY ?

はあっ
RATH, I'M FINE

WHAT DID HE MEAN WHEN HE SAID I WAS IMPORTANT TO NADIL'S ARMY?
DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON ME! WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?
HEEEEY!!
BO
BU
THEN TELL ME.
WHY DO YOU THINK I'M HIDING ANYTHING?
WHAT ?

THE MASK ...
THAT MASK PROBABLY MAGNIFIES HIS POWER.
HE'S STRONGER THAN BEFORE.
WHO KNOWS IF HELL ACTUALLY DESTROY IT.
WE NEED TO FIND THE AMULET.
WE SHOULD HURRY.
TH!
THE DARK CESIA WITHIN YOU IS PROBABLY GIVING HIM STRENGTH, TOO.
IT'S PROBABLY NOT JUST THAT.
HE'S... ...A THREAT.
HUH?



WHAT DID KIRUKULUS MEAN?
I'M NOT TELLING.
ガコ
YOU'RE RIGHT.
CALM DOWN! WE HAVE TO FIND THE LIGHT DRAGON AMULET FIRST!
sigh
OKAY, WHATEVER YOU SAY.
BUT YOU BETTER TELL ME LATER.

THE STRONG WINDS HAD KEPT IT AWAY UP UNTIL NOW.
THE FOG IS ROLLING IN AGAIN.
THE FOG ROLLS IN, AND THE AIR STILLS.
IT'S BECAUSE THIS PLACE ATTRACTS MYSTICAL FORCES
...AND YOKAI LIKE KIRUKULUS AND ZOMA, TOO.
THE MAN-EATING WITCH, THE ONE-EYED GIANT...
...HOME TO MANY OF THE FIERCEST CREATURES KNOWN TO DUSIS.
THIS IS A DEMON FOREST...

WHERE COULD KIRUKULUS HAVE GONE?
カラ
I CAN JUST USE MY MAGIC.
DON'T WORRY.
THESE TWIGS ARE PRETTY DAMP. DO YOU THINK THEY'LL STILL BURN?

HE'S BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.
HE'LL COME! HE WANTS YOU
AND FOR TONIGHT ...
I MEAN, WHAT IF KIRUKULUS SENSES US AND STAYS AWAY?
HEY! WON'T THIS FIRE GIVE US AWAY?
GOOD IDEA. BUT...
...I DON'T WANT HIM TRYING TO NAB YOU IN THE DARK.
...
...WHAT IF HE DESTROYS THE LIGHT DRAGON AMULET IN THE MEANTIME?

...
.. BIERREZ.
...HE'S PROBABLY STILL WATCHING ME.
EVEN NOW...
BUT...
I DON'T HAVE TO ASK!
I CAN IMAGINE!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA ASK ME WHAT HAP-PENED TO HIM?

IF YOU HAD GONE THAT WAY, YOU WOULD HAVE ENCOUNTERED AN EVIL CREATURE.
NOT THAT I CARE.
GEEZ. WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
I'LL JUST LOOK SOME-WHERE ELSE.
FINE. WHAT-EVER YOU SAY.

I GUESS HE REALLY DOESN'T WANT ME TO TURN INTO THE DARK CESIA.
RATH'S RELIGIOUS?
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO START PRAYING, THEN.
GO THE OTHER WAY.
WAIT! DON'T GO THAT WAY.
I'LL BE RIGHT OVER THERE.
I'LL GO LOOK FOR MORE BRANCHES.
I'M NOT TELL-ING!
WHY ?
THAT'S NOT FAIR!

I WAS A MAN-EATING WITCH'S ADOPTED DAUGHTER.
WELL, YES.
I DID A LOT OF TERRIBLE THINGS ...
I ATE LOTS OF HUMANS... AND DEMONS, TOO.
YOU DON'T ANYMORE?
WHAT ABOUT NOW?
HUH
IS THAT RIGHT, CESIA?
SO YOU LIKE TO FOOL PEOPLE.
BUT NOW THAT I'VE GOTTEN BACK IN TOUCH WITH MY DEMON SIDE...
I'VE FOR-GOTTEN WHAT THEY TASTE LIKE.
IT'S BEEN AWHILE.

MAN!
I'M HUNGRY.
UH... ?
THE WITCH AND I WERE PLANNING ON EATING YOU GUYS. WE LIED ABOUT THAT ONE-EYED GIANT. YOU GUYS WERE SO EASY TO FOOL.
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S WHEN I FIRST MET THATZ AND RUNE, TOO!
YOU WERE WORKING AS A WAITRESS IN THAT CAFE.
THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU WAS IN THIS FOREST.

I'VE HATED THE TASTE OF BOTH HUMANS AND DEMONS EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER.
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD START EATING THEM AGAIN.
I WAS ONLY JOKING.
WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR?
burp
YOU COULD EAT ME IF YOU WANTED TO.
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU VOWED TO NEVER LET ME DIE.
HEY!
HERE'S SOMETHING I LEFT OUT ABOUT YOU EARLIER.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!

...I MIGHT JUST GO BACK TO MY FORMER DIET.
AND I AM *VERY* HUNGRY.
I'VE NEVER EATEN A DRAGON CLAN MEMBER BEFORE.
I HEAR THEY ARE ESPE-CIALLY TASTY ...
WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOME-THING?
C'MON, RATH
YOU DIDN'T THINK I WAS SERIOUS?
DID YOU?

OR MAYBE YOU JUST LIKE TO BE BABIED.
YEAH. THAT MIGHT BE TRUE.

HMPH.
A CHILD. THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE.
I'M A CHILD, EH? DOES THAT MEAN I'M CUTE?
TO THE DRAGON LORD AND THE OFFICERS ?
YOU'RE MEAN. NOT CUTE AT ALL.

!!?
CESIA!!
..HEE HEE

IT'S HIM!!

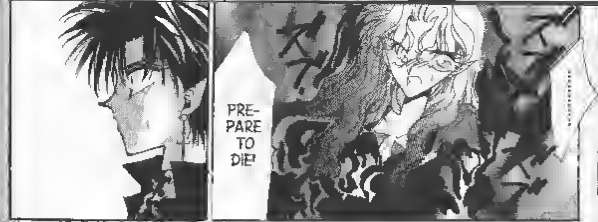
RIGHT NOW, I CAN TAKE AS MUCH OF HER POWER AS I WANT.
WATCH!
YOU FOOL!
HE HE.. MU HA HAAA AA.
DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOUR-SELF.
SHE'S TOO GOOD FOR YOU. SO I'M TAKING HER BACK.
カチ!

HE HE HE HE HE
THAT BAS-TARD.
DO YOU WANT ME TO BRING OUT THE REAL CESIA?
WOULD YOU LIKE A REMATCH ?
DON'T FORGET THAT ALL OF YOUR WOUNDS WERE CAUSED BY HER!!
ACTUALLY I DON'T EVEN NEED TO BRING OUT THE OTHER CESIA.
ALL I NEED IS HER INNATE POWER.

CESIA!
ARE YOU REALLY IN A POSITION TO BE GARRING AWAY RIGHT NOW?
DOES SHE EVER SHUT UP?
WHAT A SMALL-MINDED CHILD.
AND, SLEEPY-HEAD? YOU COULDN'T COME UP WITH SOMETHING MORE CREATIVE?
HEY. I'M NOT A SLEEPY-HEAD, STUPID CHILD. YOU BE MORE POLITE.
WHA-
KIRUKU-LUS...
I COULD DRAIN ALL YOUR POWER AND SHED BE SEALED AWAY FOREVER.
YOU DON'T EVER WANT THAT DARK CESIA TO COME OUT AGAIN, RIGHT?

!
CESIA!!
WAKE UP!!
CESIA !!
OH, SHE ACTUALLY WOKE UP.
HUH? WHAT DID YOU SAY !!!?
I SAID WAKE UP, DAMN IT!
YOU SLEEPY-HEAD !!

?!


PRE-
PARE
TO
DIE!

STOP
LOOKING
LIKE YOU'RE
HAVING SO
MUCH FUN!
YOU
WANT
ME TO
SAVE
YOU?
WELL?
YOU
WANT
ME TO,
RIGHT?
PLEASE...
SAVE
ME...

WHAT
THE?!

I'LL
SAVE
YOU.
FINE.

WHAT'S THAT?
A DRAGON...!?
YEP.
THAT KIND OF TREE GROWS ALL OVER BERTHA FOREST.
I GUESS THE SEEDS GOT BLOWN HERE OR SOMEONE PLANTED THEM.
SO NOW THEY'RE GROWING IN THE MISTY VALLEY, TOO.
WHA-
HEY! WAIT A SECOND!
THAT MEANS..
THE TREES THAT GROW IN BERTHA FOREST?

Rath

CESIA!
GET AWAY! HURRY!
HUH?
WHAT?
HE'S GONNA USE YOUR POWERS TO TRANS-FORM!!

ALL RIGHT!
HERE WE GO AGAIN.
!!
OH NO.
NO!
NOT AGAIN!
A SACRED

IF WE DON'T HURRY, HE'LL END UP BREAKING IT!
HE CAN'T HOLD ON TO IT IN THIS NEW FORM.
THE LIGHT DRAGON AMULET ...?
HE'S NOT ACTING OF HIS OWN FREE WILL ANYMORE. HE'S DARK CESIA'S PUPPET!
RATH!
OVER THERE!
WHY ME?!
YOU'RE RIGHT. GO GET IT.
NOW THEN
WHY DOES HE THINK I CAN?
YOU BETTER NOT LOSE IT AGAIN.
GEE... WHAT A GUY!
SHALL WE GET THIS OVER WITH?

GRR...
OOOHH!
DAMN DEMON

A PUPPET OF DARK CESIA'S POWERS ?
AAACK!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
SO MUCH POWER —
WHAT DOES THAT MAKE ME, THEN?!
IS SHE REALLY A PART OF ME?

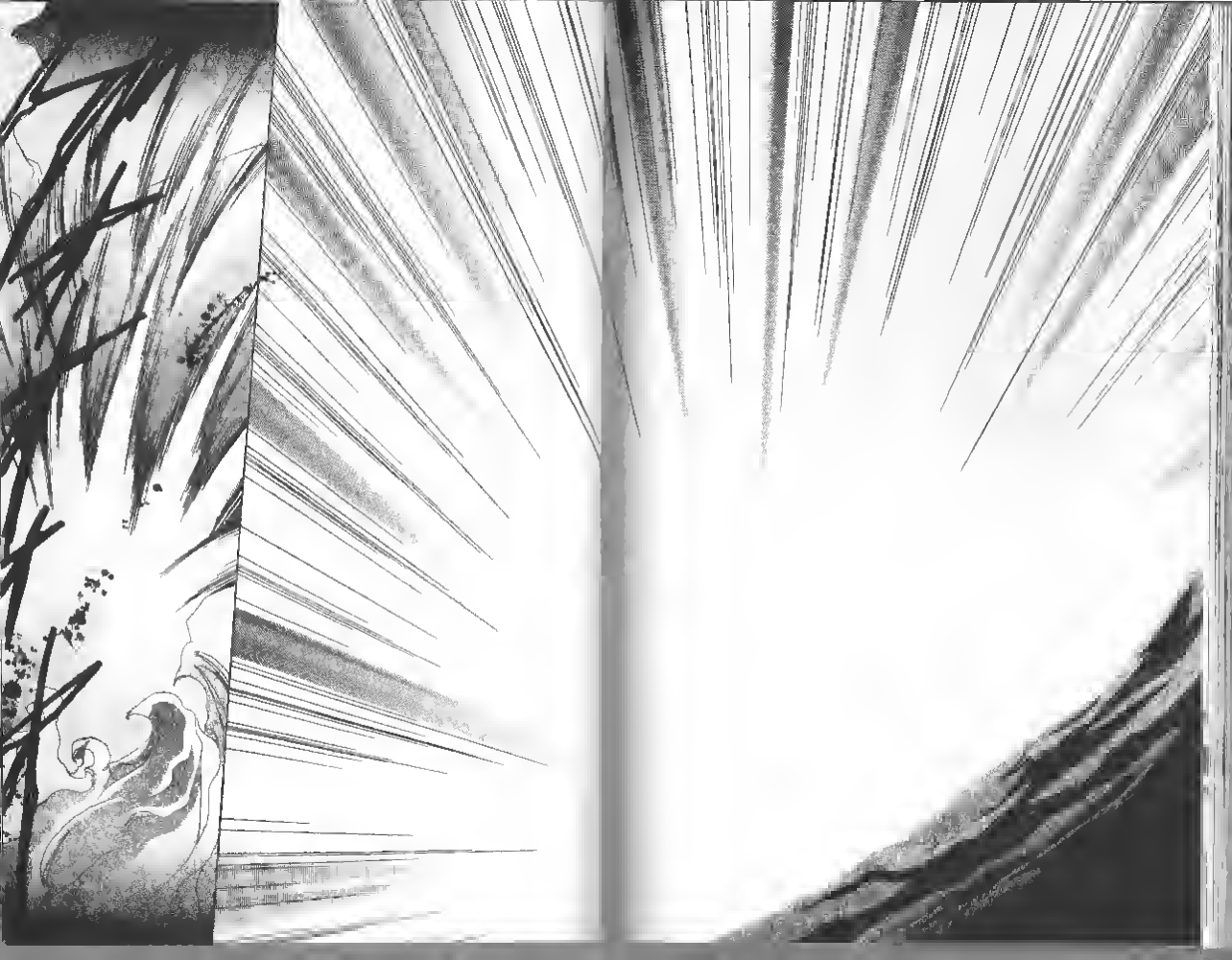
!!
....?!
HE'S FOCUSING HIS POWER FROM INSIDE HIS BODY?!

O-
OKAY
GET THAT THING AND COME TO ME!
NEW PLAN!
SQW-AAK
SHUT UP!
RATH!
YOU CAN KILL HIM, CAN'T YOU?!
THIS IS BAD...
JUST GET THE AMULET AND GET OUT OF HERE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
RATH.
NO, WAIT!
ON SECOND THOUGHT
WHY DON'T YOU JUST CUT HIM UP?
WHAT'S WRONG? THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.
I CAN'T CUT HIM.

DON'T JUST SIT THERE. YOU'VE GOT MAGIC, TOO. WHY DON'T YOU...
HUH?
HEY!
YO!
IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
I COULD TRY TO PUT UP A PROTECTIVE BARRIER, BUT ITS RANGE WOULD BE LIMITED.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT I'D BE ABLE TO PROTECT COSTA RICA..
...AND PROTECTIVE BARRIERS AREN'T EXACTLY MY SPECIALITY.
WHO DID THIS TO ME!?
SIGH... WHAT TO DO...
MY BAD! I FORGOT. YOU CAN'T DO MAGIC. YOU'RE CURSED.
SO BERTHA'S CURSE WILL WEAR OFF IN TIME.
WE ALREADY REMOVED THE SPELL THAT WAS CAST ON YOU AS A CHILD.
DON'T WORRY. IT'LL PROBABLY BE OKAY.
I WOULDN'T MIND SLASHING HIM TO BITS, BUT IF I DO, THIS WHOLE AREA WILL BE DESTROYED.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE HARNESSED ALL OF YOUR EVIL ENERGY INTO HIS BODY.
I GUESS HE REALLY HATES HER.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
EVEN WITH THE DRAGON LORD'S SWORD? IS HE THAT STRONG?
HUH?
OH MY GOD!
THAT'S RIGHT.
I-I... REALLY HAVE THAT MUCH POWER ????
I NEVER KNEW HOW DANGEROUS I WAS.
BUT CHANTEL ISN'T TOO FAR..
THE CLOSEST VILLAGE IS COSTA RICA. THERE'S NOTHING BUT OPEN PLAINS FOR MILES.
WH AAA AA AAA AAT !!!!!

C'MON.
YOU WANT ME TO PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY?
I'M SUCH A NICE GUY, I'LL EVEN USE MY SPECIAL SWORD.

SINCE YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY PERFORM MAGIC...
...ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS STAY BY MY SIDE.
THAT'LL BE ENOUGH.
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND.
UH... OKAY.
?
IF HE CUTS HIM, THIS WHOLE AREA...!!
YOU BETTER CROSS YOUR PAWS.
I'M GOING TO GO FOR IT AND CUT HIM TO SHREDS.



IF YOU DON'T WAKE UP, I'M GONNA BITE YOU.
I WAS JUST KIDDING.
UG...
URGHH...
HEY.
RATH.
WOW.
EVERY-THING REALLY DID GET BLOWN AWAY.
YOU CAN EVEN SEE THE HORIZON, NOW
THE MISTY VALLEY...
...IT'S GONE.

WE HAVE TO CROSS AN OCEAN TO GET BACK TO THE COOLIA KINGDOM.
IT'S GONNA BE ROUGH.
DON'T WORRY. I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON. IT'S MORE TROUBLE FOR ME THAN YOU IF YOU LOSE YOUR MEMORY.
OKAY! GOT IT!
DON'T FALL ASLEEP!
YOU BETTER KEEP WATCH ON ME THIS TIME!
I'M SAYING IT'S FAR, THAT'S ALL!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ARE YOU REALLY THAT LAZY? YOU'RE JUST GONNA SIT ON MY SHOULDER THE WHOLE WAY
HMM MMM
I WONDER IF IT'LL WORK.

I WONDER IF IT WILL EVER GO BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS.
NOT FOR A LONG TIME.
AND IT'LL TAKE LONGER NOW THAT THE FAERIES ARE GONE.
THAT'S TRUE.
DON'T WORRY. I'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT.
AND NOW THAT BERTHA'S SERVANTS HAVE BEEN ALL WIPED OUT, HOW AM I GONNA TURN BACK INTO CESIA?
I SAVED YOU, ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
RATH! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT ME?!
OH YEAH!
YOU'RE FORGETTING ABOUT THE SPRING OF PURIFICATION.
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING? LOOK AT ME!

Northern Town of Yuba

YOU? BOOKS?
I'VE ONLY READ MAGIC MANUALS.
IT ALWAYS WORKED IN THOSE SILLY STORY-BOOKS THEY READ TO ME.
THEY USED TO READ TO ME A LOT.
WELL, THE WITCH WOULD READ THEM TO ME.
IT SEEMED LIKE AN ALL TOO EASY SOLUTION, ANYWAY.
OH WELL, I GUESS THAT DIDN'T WORK.
WHAA AAA AAAA ---!? JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO-
UGH!
EEK!
AO
UMMMM, IT'S NOT THAT--
IS IT THAT STRANGE?
YUCK, HERE'S HAIR IN MY MOUTH.
YOU'RE AN ANIMAL AFTER ALL. BLEH! PTOOIE!
I USED TO DO THIS ALL THE TIME AND THEY THOUGHT IT WAS CUTE.
LET'S GO.
OKAY.

IT'S SO RARE THAT A VISITOR COMES TO SUCH A NORTHERN RURAL VILLAGE.
HE WAS SO HAND-SOME!
WHAT HAP-PENED NEXT?
AND THEN? PRAY TELL.
HE STOOD OUT SO MUCH THAT EVERY-ONE WAS FUSSING OVER HIM
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, GIL.
I WANT TO SEE HIM, TOO.
REALLY? WHERE IS HE NOW?

slam
creak
WELCOME.
HEY, GIL.
THE USUAL, RIGHT? I HAVE IT HERE.
JUST WAIT RIGHT THERE AND I'LL GO GET IT FROM THE BACK.
DON'T GO NO WHERE.
GO AHEAD
DON'T MIND US.
laugh

...THOSE TWO NEVER HAVE BEEN VERY SOCIAL.
OH WELL.
WHICH ONE?
THE ONE WITH THE WHITE HAIR

I'LL GIVE HIM THE MESSAGE.
...MAKE THE TREK UP THE MOUNTAIN. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS WITH ALL THOSE DEMONS.
AND IT CAN'T BE MUCH FUN TO HAVE TO COME DOWN HERE EVERY TIME YOU NEED TO SHOP.
YOU SHOULD TELL HIM TO MOVE BACK INTO TOWN. YOU WON'T GET MANY VENDORS WHO'LL...
SO ...IS YOUR OLDER BROTHER DOING WELL? IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE HE HURT HIS BACK.
I DOUBLE BAGGED THEM, JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT.
AND THE TEA LEAVES AND SUGAR ARE IN HERE.
HERE ARE THE SPICES.
IT'S GETTING COLD UP IN THOSE MOUNTAINS, SO I'LL COME IN HANDY.
I ALSO THREW IN SOME EXTRA OIL.

I HEAR... YOU'RE SNIFFING AROUND FOR INFORMATION ABOUT EMPHAZA...?
AND YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE PRETTY INFORMED.
I HEARD HIM ASK ABOUT EMPHAZA.
DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD GO OVER THERE AND TELL HIM WHAT WE KNOW?
THEN WE COULD GET HIM TO TALK TO US.
ALL I KNOW ABOUT IT IS THE STORIES MY GRANDMOTHER USED TO TELL ME.
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU GO THEN?
HUH? ME?
THERE'S A CROWD GATHERING.
I MUST REALLY STAND OUT.

oh no
THAT GIRL SAID IT WAS A LEGENDARY BEAST
IS THE EMPHAZA BEAST JUST A DEMON?
ANOTHER DEAD END...
WHAT DO I DO NOW?
THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY.
WELL, I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE. I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO...
...AND SEE IT FOR MYSELF. WHY DOES IT ALWAYS END UP THIS WAY?
OH GREAT!
I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT!

I'M LOOKING TO SHARE INFORMATION.
DON'T GO NEAR EMPHAZA. THE DEMON THERE..
...WILL KILL YOU.
A DEMON?
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE LEGENDARY BEAST?
ANYTHING WOULD BE HELPFUL. LIKE SOMETHING ABOUT THE LEGENDARY BEAST AT EMPHAZA.

Dragon Knights

Preview for Volume 8

Kitchel and Ringleys succeed in finding the Three Treasures in the water cave below the lost continent of Armas... but now can they get out? Rath and Cesia close in on Mt. Mfartha, and, as luck would have it, they meet up with a traveling Kai-stern. But when Rath is asked by yet another village to destory a mischievious demon, he can't resist, leaving Kai-stern to climb Mfartha alone, a move that may prove fatal when the adventurous Dragon Officer encounters the deranged mountain demon Gil. And Gil has at his side the Dragon of Fire, who had left the Dragon Castle in search of Rath.

Mineko Ohkami

8

Coolia Kingdom: Spring of Purification
THAT HURT!
To be continued in the next thrilling volume of Mineko Ohkami's Dragon Knights.
WOW
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO THROW ME!